

they will soon break forth with unappeasable fury, while the astonished reason has to stand by in utter impotence.

It is a most alarming consideration that man's character is seldom stationary—it is like the vessel on the wide ocean with wind and tide against it—and if he is not struggling against the passions, they will hurry him into yet greater extremes of wickedness. What melancholy proofs do we see in the world around us ! You wonder at the drunkard become so infatuated; but the grieving, the downcast mother, or the disheartened wife, can tell you of a time—and a sigh heaves her bosom as she speaks of it—when the now outcast and degraded one was loved and respected, and returned with regularity to quiet and domestic peace in the bosom of the family. But, alas ! he would not believe the warnings of a parent, he did not attend to the meek unobtrusive recommendations of a wife or sister, he despised the commands of the living God; and seeking for happiness where it has never been found, he spurned at those who told him that the habit was fixing its roots;—till now he has become the scorn and jest of the thoughtless, and the object of pity to the wise and good; boasting to his companions, in the midst of his brutal mirth, of his strength of mind, and yet unable to resist the least temptation; talking of his kindness of heart, while his friends and family are pining in poverty, or weeping over his waywardness. It is only one of many indications that might be adduced of the tendency of sin to propagate itself, and spread throughout the soul in ever-widening circles.

SECT. V.—THEORY OF THE PRODUCTION OF THE
EXISTING
MORAL STATE OF MAN.

We have been viewing some of the characteristics of man's nature, and the following explanation seems as if it might account historically for the leading phenomena.

We put the case of a being constituted in all other respects as a man is, with his high faculties, his lovely affections, and amiable feelings; but in whom the moral law is wont to exercise its becoming office, and whose heart is filled with love to the Creator and the creature. This being, yielding to tempting suggestions made to him, is led to commit a deed that is openly sinful. The act must speedily pass under the review of the